

Basic information	
<p><b>2025/0055(NLE)</b></p> <p>NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision</p>	<p>Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal</p>
<p>EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Vanuatu</p> <p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>3.15.15.06 Fisheries agreements with Pacific countries 6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.06 Relations with ACP countries, conventions and generalities</p> <p><b>Geographical area</b></p> <p>Vanuatu</p>	

Key players			
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">INTA</div> International Trade	JOŃSKI Dariusz (EPP)	08/04/2025
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Trade and Economic Security	ŠEFČOVIČ Maroš	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/03/2025	Preparatory document	<a href="#">COM(2025)0105</a> 	Summary
15/05/2025	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">07847/2025</a>	Summary
16/06/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/07/2025	Vote in committee		
16/07/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A10-0141/2025</a>	
10/09/2025	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T10-0182/2025</a>	Summary
10/09/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/10/2025	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

Technical information
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Procedure reference	2025/0055(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p5 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p4 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	INTA/10/02435

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE773.421</a>	03/06/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A10-0141/2025</a>	16/07/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T10-0182/2025</a>	10/09/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>Council of the EU</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">07847/2025</a>	15/05/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>	
<b>European Commission</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Preparatory document	<a href="#">COM(2025)0105</a> 	13/03/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

## EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Vanuatu

2025/0055(NLE) - 10/09/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 528 votes to 89, with 48 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision to on the accession of Vanuatu the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the accession of Vanuatu to the Agreement.

The accession of Vanuatu to the interim EPA between the EU, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands, which is an asymmetric and WTO-compatible trade agreement, reinforces the legal framework of the EU trade relations with Pacific partner countries and facilitates reciprocal trade. It also incorporates Vanuatu into the regime of joint rules and institutions established by the interim EPA.

The interim EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement that provides asymmetrical access to Vanuatu's market and allows the country to protect sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while also providing for a number of safeguards and an infant industry protection clause. It also contains rules of origin provisions that facilitate Vanuatu's exports to the EU.

Following Vanuatu's classification by the World Bank as an upper middle-income country, the country will be removed from the list of Everything But Arms (EBA) beneficiary countries under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), and will no longer benefit from the tariff preferences (duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market) provided under the special arrangement EBA for the least-developed countries as of 1 January 2025.

## EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Vanuatu

2025/0055(NLE) - 13/03/2025 - Preparatory document

**PURPOSE:** to approve the accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Decision of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

**BACKGROUND:** on 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

On 30 July 2009, the EU signed an interim EPA between the Union (then the European Community), on the one hand, and the Pacific States, on the other. The interim EPA has been provisionally applied by Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Fiji since 20 December 2009 and 28 July 2014 respectively. The Independent State of Samoa and the Solomon Islands acceded to the Agreement and have been applying it provisionally since 31 December 2018 and 17 May 2020 respectively.

On 10 July 2024, Vanuatu submitted to the Commission an application for accession to the interim EPA, accompanied by a market access offer. The Commission examined the offer and found it acceptable. Accordingly, the Commission concluded the negotiations on behalf of the Union.

**CONTENT:** this proposal for a Council Decision constitutes the legal instrument for the approval, on behalf of the European Union (EU), of the **accession of Vanuatu** to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part and for the provisional application of that Agreement.

The interim EPA is a **development-oriented trade agreement**, which offers asymmetric market access to Vanuatu and allows it to shield sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while providing a large number of safeguards and a clause for infant industry protection. It further contains provisions on the rules of origin that facilitate Vanuatu's exports to the EU.

The interim EPA establishes the conditions for EU economic operators to take full advantage of existing opportunities between the respective economies. During its implementation, the interim EPA will largely relieve EU exporters of industrial products to Vanuatu from paying customs duties.

Vanuatu's market access offer is well within the WTO threshold of 83% liberalisation (in terms of tariff lines), which corresponds to 91% of EU exports by volume over 20 years. Vanuatu will benefit from maintaining its duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market.

The interim EPA also establishes a set of disciplines in the areas of sustainable development, technical barriers to trade (TBT), and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, among others. In addition, the parties to the interim EPA participate in the Trade Committee established by the agreement.

The possibility of the EU to avail itself of the bilateral dispute settlement mechanism foreseen under the Agreement contributes to the objective of securing a transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable environment for EU operators in the Pacific countries.

## EC/Pacific States Interim Partnership Agreement: accession of Vanuatu

2025/0055(NLE) - 15/05/2025 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to approve the accession of Vanuatu to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Decision of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

**BACKGROUND:** on 12 June 2002, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements with the members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, was signed on 30 July 2009 and has been applied provisionally since 20 December 2009. The Agreement has been applied provisionally by Papua New Guinea since 20 December 2009 and by the Republic of the Fiji Islands since 28 July 2014. Samoa and the Solomon Islands acceded to the Interim Partnership Agreement and have been applying it provisionally since 31 December 2018 and 17 May 2020 respectively.

On 10 July 2024, Vanuatu submitted an application for membership and a market access offer to the Union. The Commission examined Vanuatu's offer and found it acceptable. Accordingly, it concluded the negotiations with Vanuatu on 7 August 2024.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims to approve, on behalf of the European Union (EU), **the accession of Vanuatu** to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, and for the provisional application of that Agreement.

The interim EPA is a development-oriented trade agreement that provides asymmetrical access to Vanuatu's market and allows the country to protect sensitive sectors from liberalisation, while also providing for a number of safeguards and an infant industry protection clause. It also contains rules of origin provisions that facilitate Vanuatu's exports to the EU.

The Union and Vanuatu shall provisionally apply the Interim Partnership Agreement ten days after they have notified each other in writing of the completion of the procedures necessary for this purpose.